

# Capsule 26

JUL-SEP 1992

## NCSM GOES DOWNUNDER

The pioneering efforts of the National Council of Science Museums to create a proper understanding of science and scientific phenomena through entertaining and educative exhibits, bore fruit when it bagged an export order of such a set of exhibits on 'Fun Science' for the Queensland Museum, Brisbane, Australia.

The Deputy Director of the Queensland Museum, Mr. Bruce Campbell visited



Central Research and Training Laboratory, Calcutta and National Science Centre, Delhi, to select some of the interactives for their *Sciencentre*.



About 30 assorted exhibits from the different groups were finally selected by the Queensland Museum and these were shipped out of Calcutta during the last week of June. It is slated to reach Brisbane by August and be ready for inauguration within a month there after, when the Museum formally opens to the public.

The Council has a set of 101 exhibits on 'Fun Science'



which are offered at cost price to developing Science Centres as catalytic support. These



exhibits are divided into several groups like Mathematics, Fluidics,

Pendulum, Sound, Optical Illusions, Magnetism etc.

One of the basic objectives of the Council is the active promotion of science centres and encourage their development to further promote the cause of science. It is heartening to note that a number of Science Centres in various countries have shown keen interest in procuring exhibits from the Council. Positive developments are expected in the near future.

We, at National Council of Science Museums wish the Queensland Museum a grand success and welcome them as part of the worldwide movement to promote scientific knowledge and culture.

## WINGS OF SCIENCE

The gentle breeze of scientific temper which has been blowing through the States in which the National Council of Science Museums operates its units, is all set to pick up momentum as one steps into the decade of the nineties.

The Planning Commission's Task Force had set a target for establishment of National and State level Science Centres during the Sixth and Seventh Five Year Plans. The target has been achieved and has created

a sound infrastructure to launch smaller units at sub-regional and district levels.

Pursuing its professed objective to propagate the seeds of science and nurture young impressionable minds on the fertile soil of scientific knowledge, the National Council of Science Museums have taken up a number of projects, which will become part of the growing family of the Council.

Centres have come up in Burdwan, Bhopal, Calicut and Tirupati. All these units are expected to be inaugurated shortly. Under implementation are projects at Imphal (Manipur), Agartala (Tripura), Kapilash and Dhenkanal (Orissa), Siliguri and Digha (West Bengal), and Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh).

Negotiations are on for establishing centres at Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Goa and Madhya Pradesh.

Under the NCSM blue print for establishing a Centre, the local authorities, either at the State or District level, provide 10 acres of land for a regional level Centre or 5 acres for a sub-regional level Centre and 50 per cent of the project cost. The land is also provided free of cost at an easily accessible, centrally situated location of the concerned region or sub-region. The final approval for selecting the land rests with the Council. The Council, thereafter, takes on the full administrative and financial responsibility of the Centre.

To equip these upcoming Centres, the Council has chalked out an elaborate programme to equip them with core exhibits and necessary equipments, including audio visual equipment, to ensure their smooth operations.

With the opening of the new Centres, the total number of Science Centres will increase to twenty seven.



- ① IMPHAL
- ② AGARTALA
- ③ KAPILASH
- ④ DHENKANAL
- ⑤ SILIGURI
- ⑥ DIGHA
- ⑦ VIJAYAWADA
- ⑧ HARYANA
- ⑨ HIMACHAL PRADESH
- ⑩ GOA
- ⑪ MADHYA PRADESH

## WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY CELEBRATION

*June 5, designated as the World Environment Day, was celebrated with enthusiasm by National Council of Science Museums' Units.*

The **Birla Industrial and Technological Museum** Calcutta, organised Open House Quiz on Environment and Ecology, Costume Parade, Elocution contest and distribution of trees and saplings. A special attraction was a mock 'Parliament' on Environment on June 6. In this programme, school students acted as Members of Parliament. 'Opposition' questioned the 'Ruling' party's position on environmental issues. This event was widely reported in the local press.

The Centre at **Bhubaneswar** celebrated the day with a quiz on Environment for students of Class-VIII (junior group) and another for students of Class IX-XII (senior group). A debate competition for the junior and senior students were also organised. The prizes awarded in the different categories were sponsored by Department of Forest and Environment, Govt. of Orissa.

The Centre in **Dharampur** inaugurated the 'Summer Nature Education Camp' for participation of the Bharat Scouts and Guides of Gujarat State along with an essay competition, popular lectures and science film shows on wild life.

The Centre at **Lucknow** celebrated the day by organising a Science Quiz contest with U.P. Vigyan Lekhak Evam Sambaddata Samity, an essay on 'Pollution and its Solution', a seminar on 'Environment Pollution' and a tree plantation programme by school students. On May 29,

the Centre unveiled its 'Anti-superstition Campaign' where the so called 'miracles' performed by 'godmen' were exposed through scientific terms. Widely reported in the local press, these demonstrations will be held in 35 different adult literacy Centres over a 3 month period.

Raman Science Centre, **Nagpur** held film shows on 'Birds of Indian Monsoon' 'Tiger Tiger' 'Conserving our forests today' 'Grow more and more trees', 'Plants and their importance' and 'Energy and matter'.

The Centre at **Patna** organised a sit and draw competition on the 'Global Warming' and a lecture cum demonstration on 'Recycling of waste materials'.

The District Science Centre **Purulia** along with the Zilla Vigyan Kendra, organised a discussion on 'Our Environmental Concerns'.





The Centre in Tirunelveli conducted a popular lecture on 'Chemical pollution of Environment', an Environment Awareness Camp at Chenkulam village in collaboration with Smart Society and a popular lecture on 'Environmental Hygiene'.

## ORISSA ENVIRONMENT CONGRESS

The Regional Centre at Bhubaneswar with active support from Orissa Environmental Society and Council of Professional Social Workers, Dept. of Forest and Environment, Govt. of Orissa and Canadian International Development Agency, organised the Orissa Environment Congress on May 23-24, 1992.

The first day's technical session was on 'Protection and Conservation of Natural Resources' and 'Floods,

Drought, Desertification and Cyclones'. Popular lectures were delivered on 'Flat top Hills of Orissa', 'Integrated Management of Chilka lake', 'Birds of Chilka' and 'Wetland management in Orissa with special reference to Chilka'.

On the following day, the technical session was on 'Impact of development projects on environment and quality of life, and 'Women & Environment'. A special session on 'Environment conservation movement in Orissa' was also organised.

The Congress was attended by a large number of Government organisations and NGOs.

## THIRTY-THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF BITM ON MAY 2, 1992.



Birla Industrial and Technological Museum celebrated thirty three years of fruitful existence with various interactive programmes like Science film shows, final contest of Science Quiz, Spectral Demonstration and special exhibition on 'Science in profile' and 'Man and the Biosphere'. The Centre collaborated with the British Council and Alliance Francaise for the exhibitions.

The Exhibition 'Science in profile' presented the works of 24 contemporary British scientists who have made major and significant contributions to science. The exhibition contained 24 panels. The other exhibition on 'Man and the Biosphere' contained 36 panels, dealing with the theme. The topics covered were soil degradation, multiple dimensions of land use, conversional and alternative source of energy and conservation of ecosystem.

The Annual Science Quiz finals was held for the primary and secondary students as a part of the anniversary celebrations. Three hundred students from 35 schools participated in the primary level quiz held on April 24 and 25, while 231 students from 40 schools participated in the secondary level Quiz held on April 28 and 29. The finals were held on May 2, 1992.

The winners in the primary section was Hare School and Hindu School followed as runners up, while South Point School and Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan were winners and runners up respectively in the secondary section. Best individual prizes went to Tuhin Bhowmik of Hare School and Tathagata Chakraborty of South Point School.

## SCIENCE CENTRE NEWS

### ASSAM

Twenty projects were completed by 70 students of VIII standard in a hobby camp organised by the Museum at Tinsukia English Academy, Assam between May 15-21. A special demonstration on fun with paper and special experimental quiz was organised. Certificates were awarded to the participants.

The XII Teachers' orientation camp for the teachers of Vivekananda Kendra, Sikha Prasar Vibag, Arunachal Pradesh was held between April 16 - 19, 1992, at the Kendriya Vidyalaya, Tinsukhia. This 4 day programme was conducted by National Council of Science Museums and Regional Science Centre, Guwahati. Sixteen teachers from various centres of the Kendra attended the programme. The main objective of the workshop was to train the teachers to prepare various teaching aids by using simple tools like hammer, hack-saw and low cost materials. The participants developed aids to study surface tension, principles of light proportion, and thermal conductivity of various metals.

### CALCUTTA

Between April-June 1992, three Computer Training programmes for rural students were held at Balagarh High School, Pandua Sasibhusan Saha High School and Bhatpara High School. Students from these institutions and other schools like Jirat Colony High School, Jamgram Janardan Institution, Ilsoba Mondlai High School, Bhatpara High School and others participated in the programmes. Hundred and twenty three students participated the programmes and total of 17 softwares were developed.

In another out-station hobby camp on 'Physical Science' held at Bamangachi Biman Sansthan 24 Parganas(N) between June 17-25, twenty eight students worked on 31 projects and prepared 31





experimental kits. During the summer vacation, the Museum organised 5 vacation camps for students from May 25 - June 11. A total of 100 students from 61 schools worked on 38 projects in the field of Physics, Chemistry, Aero modelling, Shipbuilding, Electronics and Life Science.

A Computer training programme for children was held from May 8-18, at the Museum's Computer training centre. Sixteen students of std. IV, V and VI, from 7 schools were imparted training.



## DHARAMPUR

The District Science Centre, Dharampur and Gujarat State Bharat Scout and Guide organised a 60 km Nature Trekking Camp along Dharampur Vaghai Road during June 1-10, 1992.

Celebrating its eighth anniversary week from April 21-27, 1992, the Centre organised various programmes for house wives, school

children, teachers and social workers. Training was imparted on 'Maintenance of domestic

Electrical Appliances', 'Bamboo Art Work and Domestic utility pieces'. A workshop on 'Science vs Miracles' was also organised. Other programmes included 'World Earth Day' celebrations, a workshop on preservation of food items and temporary exhibition 'Save our Environment'. A lecture on 'Immunization and child-mother health' was also held.

## GULBARGA

In the month of April-May 1992, the District Science Centre Gulbarga, conducted vacation hobby courses in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Astronomy, Electronics and Computers.

Thirty students participated in each course and developed pressure mode manometer, molecular structure of an element, DNA model, Astroball and other items.

## LUCKNOW

Regional Science Centre Lucknow, in collaboration with U.P. Voluntary Science Centre, Lucknow, organised a two day seminar on 'Environment and Health' between April 23-24.

Representatives from various voluntary organisations of the State took part in this seminar. A lecture along with slides demonstrated the various aspects of the interrelated problems arising from the abuse of environment.

## TIRUNELVELI

A month long vacation hobby programme was conducted by the District Science Centre, Tirunelveli, from April 15 for students of the districts. The programmes included subjects like Astronomy, Electricity, Electronics and Chemistry. Students learned to make printed circuit boards, police sirens and electronic regulators, experimented with chemicals and were introduced to the basis of astronomy. A total of 298 students attended the programme.

In a seminar on career guidance for technicians, 120 participants from local ITIs and Polytechnic were exposed to the different avenues open to them to set up their own ventures. The Centre collaborated with Field Publicity Office and District Employment Office, Tirunelveli for this programme.



In a community training programme on 'Make your own Mosquito Repellent' conducted between May 30-31, the Centre imparted training to 20 unemployed youths.

World Health Day was celebrated on April 7 by the Centre with popular lectures on the theme 'Heart Beat - the rhythm of health'. Different conditions of the heart - Congenital, hyper-sensitive, Ischemic and rheumatic, were discussed by medical experts.

In another programme on May 31, a lecture was held on 'Recent advances in medical management of acute viral hepatitis'.

In a community training programme, the Centre held a silk screen printing workshop



from March 24 - 29. Seven handicapped persons from SMART Society, Aroikulam, 38 woman from Rural Welfare centre, Manur and 7 women from People's Welfare Society, participated in the programme.

World Forestry Day, March 27, was celebrated with sapling planting at the Centre by various dignitaries, followed by an exhibition on 'Tree'. The Tamil Nadu Forest

Department cooperated with the Centre for the programme.



A two day workshop on 'Integrated child Development' was jointly organised with the Integrated Child Development Scheme, Tirunelveli on March 26-27. Various topics such as 'Child Welfare', 'Women's status', and other related matters were discussed during the period. The workshop had 30 participants.

A special Taramandal and sky observation programme was conducted on March 10-11 at Vikaasa School, Ambadamudram. 522 students participated in the programme. An orientation course on low cost teaching aids was also conducted for teachers on these days.

# INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM WEEK

May 19-24, 1992, designated as International Museum Week was observed by the various units of National Council of Science Museums.

## NAGPUR

Special film shows on 'Birds of Indian Monsoon', 'Heart Attack', and 'Man the incredible machine' were held. Two hundred and fifteen visitors attended the shows. In addition, video films procured from Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation was shown. One hundred fifty visitors attended these shows.

Another film on 'Richest sea in the world', procured from World Wildlife Fund was screened for an audience of 80 people. A sky observation programme was also arranged on the first day, in which, 60 people participated.

## TIRUNELVELI

Celebrations started a day earlier at this Centre with the inauguration of 19 new kits for Science Demonstration Lecture by the Chief Education Officer, Tirunelveli. An exhibition on 'Power of 10' was also held. One hundred fifty students attended the programme. During the course of celebrations, popular lectures on 'Ozone layer depletion' and 'Origin of universe' along with slides was delivered to an audience of



100 people. Other programmes included a series of film shows, a community training programme on electronic fan regulator, an AIDS awareness programme and elocution contest on 'Environmental Pollution'. On the final day, a Blood Group testing camp was organised in collaboration with Gatewell Hospitals, in which 170 people checked their blood group.



OH LORD, IT'S TERRIBLE!  
- DON'T BE SILLY. THIS IS A PLASTIC  
WHALE. OUR ANCESTORS MADE  
THEM BEFORE FINISHING OFF THE  
SPECIES!



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